SYMBRENTHIA SILANA DE NICEVILLE, A GOOD SPECIES (LEPIDOPTERA: NYMPHALIDAE)

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While revising the Nymphalid tribe *Vanessini* I have had occasion to make a number of genitalic preparations from males and females of most of the species belonging to the genus *Symbrenthia*[1]. A study of these preparations has revealed that *Symbrenthia silana* de Niceville is a distinct species, and not a subspecies of *Symbrenthia niphanda* Moore as Fruhstorfer[2] maintains. The males of both species have very distinct genitalia and can also be told apart by several minute differences in the external facies. Females of *silana* were not available for study in the material at hand so the following diagnosis is applicable to the males of the two species only.

Symbrenthia niphanda Moore

Figs. 1-2

Symbrenthia niphanda Moore, 1872. Proc. Zool. Soc. London, 1872:559. Type locality: Sikkim, India, described from a ♂ and a ♀.

External facies. 1. Eyespot between M_2 and M_3 on underside of hindwing only slightly elongate as compared with those on either side of it. 2. Marginal green lunules on underside of hindwing crescentic in shape with an orange spot separating them from the blue marginal spot at the outer angle. 3. Forewing below bearing five or six black spots between Cu_2 and 2dA.

Male genitalia (Figs. 1 & 2). 1. Aedeagus short and thick. 2. Saccus very short and narrow. 3. Valve bear-

[1]Most of the material examined is in the collection of the U.S. National Museum and is under the care of Mr. William D. Field, who was kind enough to let me make full use of it.

[2]Fruhstorfer, H. 1912. *In* Seitz, The Macrolepidoptera of the World, 9:533.

ing a single caudal prong. 4. Uncus flanked by two well developed prongs.

Distribution. This species is recorded from Sikkim and Bhutan by Fruhstorfer, *loc. cit.*, and I have seen a male from Assam (U.S. National Museum Collection).

Symbrentia silana de Niceville
Figs. 3-4

Symbrenthia silana de Niceville, 1885. J. Asiatic Soc. Bengal 54:117. Type locality: Buxa, Bhutan, and Sikkim, India, described from a male and female.

External facies. 1. Eyespot between M_2 and M_3 on underside of hindwing very elongate as compared with those on either side of it. 2. Marginal green lunules on underside of hindwing chevron shaped and continuous with the marginal spot at the outer angle. 3. Forewing below bearing three or four black spots between Cu_2 and 2dA.

Male genitalia (Figs. 3 & 4). 1. Aedeagus long and

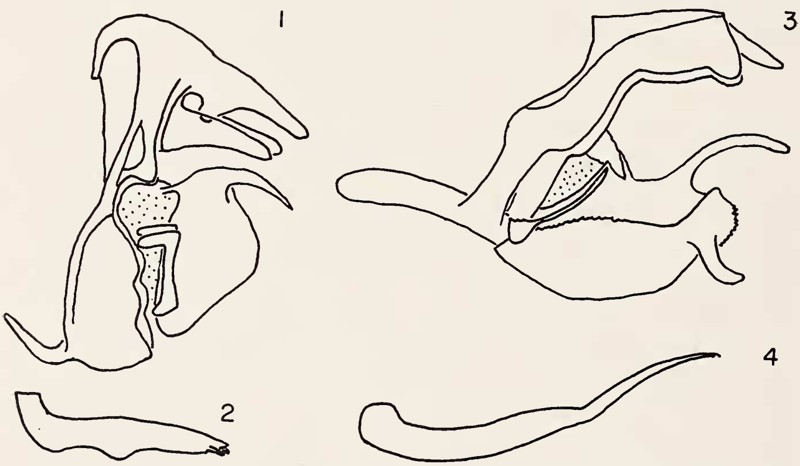


Fig. 1. Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia niphanda* Moore with the aedeagus and left valve removed. The locality from which this specimen came is unknown. Fig. 2. Aedeagus of the genitalia in Fig. 1. Fig. 3. Male genitalia of *Symbrenthia silana* de Niceville with the aedeagus and left valve removed. This specimen was collected at Sivoke, Sikkim. Fig. 4. Aedeagus of the genitalia in Fig. 3. All views are of the lateral aspect at 45x. Both specimens are in the collection of the U.S. National Museum.

tapering. 2. Saccus moderately long and thick. 3. Valve bearing a caudal and a darsal prong. 4. Uncus flanked by two poorly developed prongs.

Distribution. This species is only known from Sikkim and Bhutan.

DROSOPHILID AND CHLOROPID FLIES BRED FROM SKUNK CABBAGE. — During May and June, 1956, I collected a great many rotting spathes of skunk cabbage, *Symplocarpus foetidus* L. (Nutt.) from a shady red maple swamp in Lexington, Massachusetts. These were placed in a cloth-covered jar, and from 10-20 days later, a succession of small Diptera emerged. The first flies were small psychodids, still undetermined. Two days later, several *Drosophila quinaria* Loew adults appeared, plus a single small damaged *Drosophila,* possibly *D. transversa* or near. Following the first drosophilids by 2-3 days were numerous chloropid adults: about 100 *Elachiptera costata* (Loew) and 2 each of *E. nigriceps* (Loew) and *E. erythropleura* Sabrosky, as well as two specimens of *Tricimba lineella* (Fall.). *Drosophila* was also reared later from rotting skunk cabbage leaf petioles that were macerated and left exposed for a week in the same swamp during June; the emergents were all or nearly all *D. quinaria,* and this species was also collected resting on skunk cabbage leaves at the same locality. *D. quinaria* does not come to baits of watermelon and other rotting fruits placed in the swamp, though numerous other *Drosophila* and *Chymomyza* were attracted in this way. I owe the determinations to Dr. Curtis W. Sabrosky, Dr. A. H. Sturtevant, and Dr. Marshall R. Wheeler. — W. L. BROWN, JR., Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard University.